THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The World Bank *vide* its report (November 2008) indicates that the supply of skilled and semi-skilled workers will barely keep up with the requirements of even a low growth scenario in building roads. Under a medium growth scenario the supply will short by about 18-28% while under a high growth scenario gap will be widen from 55-64% over the next eight years. To meet this demand the number of civil engineering graduates and diploma holders would have to go up by at least a factor of three.

(d) The Consultative Group on Transport Sector under Planning Commission is examining the issue of capacity building towards achieving the targets and the extent of support required from Government at policy level.

Need for expressway in the country

†735. SHRI KAPTAN SINGH SOLANKI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to a report there is need of almost more than 17 thousand kilometer long expressway in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the length of expressway constructed in the country till now and number of expressway under construction;

(c) whether it is also a fact that expressway which are under construction are lagging much behind in their target and scheduled time;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the action being taken by Government to construct 17 thousand kms of expressway?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH) : (a) to (e) The Ministry had awarded a Consultancy Services in December, 2008 for Formulation of a Master Plan for the National Expressway Network in the country giving prioritised phasing for completion of these Expressway corridors by the year 2012, 2017 and 2022. The Consultants recently submitted the Final Report based upon the views/observations received from the State Governments *inter alia* recommending total Expressway Network of about 18,637 km for completion in prioritized manner in three phases spanning upto the years 2012, 2017 and 2022. The Report and the detailed programme are yet to be accepted by the Government. Meanwhile, an Expressway Division has been set up in the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI).

This Ministry is primarily responsible for the development and maintenance of National Highways (NHs) including National Expressways. So far, National Expressway has been constructed between Ahmedabad and Vadodara for a total length of about 93.4 km. At present no National Expressways are under construction.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.